



TIP OF THE SPEAR

13TH MEU DEPLOYS TO ASIA-PACIFIC REGION



The 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) departed aboard the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, Aug. 23, for its scheduled deployment throughout the Pacific theater. This is the first West Coast MEU to deploy with MV-22 Ospreys aboard the amphibious assault ship. The 13th MEU is comprised of approximately 2,400 Marines and is a forward deployed force in readiness capable of conducting numerous operations, such as non-combatant evacuation operations, humanitarian assistance operations and a range of amphibious missions. The MEU

[more](#)

deployed aboard the USS Boxer, USS New Orleans and USS Harpers Ferry. [Read](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Marines with Weapons Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Rotational Force - Darwin, fire a Shoulder-Launched, Multipurpose Assault Weapon as part of a movement-to-contact training evolution during Exercise Koolendong, Australia, Sept. 3. This training evolution is the first of its kind here in which Marines with MRF-D and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit worked bilaterally with the Australian soldiers of Bravo Company, 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment as a "proof of concept" to assess the capacity of the training ranges to support a battalion-sized live-fire event. *(Photo by Sgt. Sarah Fiocco)*



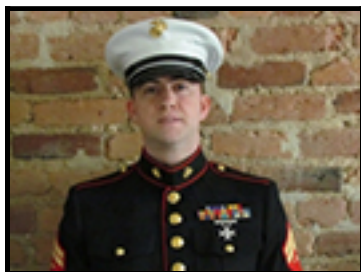
IN THE NEWS

MARFORSOUTH HAMMERS DOWN ON DRUG TRAFFICKING



Marines and Sailors of Marine Corps Forces South (MARFORSOUTH) joined their Honduran counterparts Aug. 19-23 as part of Operation Martillo, or Operation Hammer, where they conducted training exercises to combat drug smuggling. Honduras is one of the 14 countries that partner with the United States for Operation Martillo, which is led by U.S. Southern Command. Since it began in January 2012, nearly 320,000 pounds of cocaine have been confiscated, along with 25,000 pounds of marijuana and \$40 billion. The trip was Brig. Gen. David Coffman's first since assuming command of MARFORSOUTH on June 21. [Read more](#)

WOUNDED MARINE HELPS OTHERS GO INTO BUSINESS



As wounded warrior Cpl. Kevin Blanchard pursued his dreams of being a franchisee, he realized his true passion and calling was assisting other veterans and wounded, ill and injured service members with understanding the steps it takes. In 2005, Blanchard lost his leg below the knee to a roadside bomb and had nearly 30 surgeries to repair damage to the other leg. He now works on a program called VetFran, which provides veterans with discounts and resources to help start their own franchise. "You have to trust in yourself," he said. "It is not always easy to start a business venture yourself. Have confidence in your abilities and be fearless, because you are taking a shot in the dark." [Read more](#)

SPECIAL-PURPOSE MAGTF AFRICA 13 PROVIDES MARITIME TRAINING



Marines and Sailors with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa 13 conducted maritime assistance and medical aid training Aug. 10-17 with the Senegalese *Compagnie de Fusilier Marine* Commandos on Bel Air Naval Base in Dakar, Senegal. The Marines and Sailors began with the basics, such as swimming, and increased in technical and tactical skills daily, culminating with an amphibious insertion on a beach. "Overall, I think everything is going well and we are assisting the Senegalese a great amount," said Capt. Daniel Rueda, a team leader with the task force.

[Read more](#)

SGT RECEIVES SILVER STAR FOR ACTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN



Sgt. Ryan Steinkamp was awarded the Silver Star Aug. 28 for his actions while deployed to Afghanistan in 2012. Steinkamp was a squad leader with 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, when they were ambushed while clearing Payawak Village of enemy forces. He led his team to safety and planned and implemented a counter attack that lasted more than 12 hours, successfully clearing approximately 50 compounds without any civilian casualties. "Steinkamp demonstrated all the skills of the Marine squad leader in a very long day of combat in Afghanistan," said Brig. Gen. James Lukeman, commanding general of 2nd Marine Division. [Read more](#)

SUN SETS ON MARINES' HISTORIC 'PHROGS'



Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (VMM-262) bid farewell to the CH-46E, the Sea Knight, Aug. 30 in a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan. The 60-year-old helicopter became obsolete with the arrival of the MV-22B Osprey, a hybrid tilt-rotor aircraft that is faster, more versatile and capable of hauling more troops and gear. The last of the Sea Knights await full retirement and final decisions regarding relocation; likely a number will be placed on "hold," in case there is a

future need. "It's sad to see it go," said Capt. Cory Frederick, a pilot with VMM-262. "It's bittersweet." [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 6, 1983

Two Marines were killed and two were wounded when rockets hit their compound in Beirut, Lebanon. Heavy fighting continued for the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit peacekeeping force in the area near their positions around the Beirut International Airport.



SEMPER FI

GARY SINISE NAMED HONORARY MARINE



Actor Gary Sinise was named an Honorary Marine Aug. 29 by Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps. Sinise surged to prominence playing "Lt. Dan" in *Forrest Gump*, and since has devoted nearly all his free time to celebrating servicemembers and helping wounded warriors. Among his efforts was the founding of the Gary Sinise Foundation, which supports veterans and their families through programs meant to entertain, strengthen and educate. "I'm humbled, shocked, moved and motivated to keep standing up for our men and women and giving back to them," he

said. [Read more](#)

OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps...the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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